

Our Young People

A PERFECT CHILD. Luke 2:40-52

Topic for June 11. (Children's Day.)

In giving the law to Moses the Lord made especial provision that the children should be thoroughly taught in it both in the home, Deut. 11:19, and in the public meeting. Deut. 31:12. Jesus said "Suffer the children to come unto me," yet the church drifted away from its duty in this respect and neglected the children. In these last days there has come an awakening to the fact that childhood is the strategic time in which to ground people in Christian service. The Sunday-school has borne magnificent fruit and the young peoples' societies are doing as great a work in slightly different lines. Even the most conservative churches are coming to emphasize the work for children more and more.

Children's Day has come to be one of the great days of the year in Sunday-school work. It comes at just the right time and should be observed by every church. Beautiful programs are plentiful and the day rightly observed proves a blessing to both children and grown up people.

The topic for this week is appropriate to the day. We often wish we might know more of the childhood of Jesus but what we do know is enough to give us an insight into its general character. He was the model child as he was the model man.

This meeting might profitably be made a union meeting with the Juniors or they might lead it.

SCRIPTURE HELP

- 1 Let the children learn, Ps. 34:11; Deut. 11:19; Deut. 31:12; Deut. 6:7; II Tim. 3:15.
- 2 Let the children serve the Lord, Ps. 148:12, 13; Matt. 19:14; Matt. 21:15; Eccl. 12:1; Lam. 3:27.
- 3 Children need training, Prov. 22:6; Prov. 29:15.
- 4 Duty of children, Col. 3:20; Ezek. 18:20; Prov. 20:11; II Cor. 12:14; I Tim. 4:12.
- 5 All must be as children to enter the kingdom, Matt. 18:3; Gal. 3:26.
- 6 A time to be no longer children, I Cor. 13:11; Eph. 4:14.

QUESTIONS

- 1 How was Jesus a model child?
- 2 What can we learn from Jesus as to obedience to parents?
- 3 What can we learn from Jesus as to Bible study for children?
- 4 How does a model child act in the home? in school? in church? on the street?
- 5 What trials and temptations have children?
- 6 What may we learn from the childhood of Josiah? (II Chron. 34:3;) of Samuel? (I Sam. 3:1;) of David? of Daniel? of Timothy? (II Tim. 3:15)
- 7 How may a good child be spoiled?
- 8 How may children work for the Lord?
- 9 How can the church, Sunday-school, and Young Peoples' Societies do more for children?

C. F. YODER.

HOW TO DIVIDE OUR TIME

MISS BESSIE CULP

We live in a world of changes; but all of them are fixed by an unchangeable God. It is absurd then for us to choose it for our portion or to take up our rest in it. Readily should we believe that whatever God has given us is best for us, and accommodate ourselves to it and wait with patience for the unravelling of what seems intricate and perplexed. However disjointed, useless and afflicted the events of Providence may appear to us, God has connected them together in the most amazing beauty and harmony and orders the season of each as tends most to advance His glory and the good of his people. There is a time to every purpose, un-

favorable as well as favorable, to the man that thinks to get solid, abiding satisfaction which he can call and keep as his own.

"A time to die," which will come all too soon to some people. All persons should so live and improve their time that they will not be afraid at and time to lie down and enter the glorious rest awaiting those that have walked in His footsteps. For example read Luke 16:19-25, and see the difference in the two deaths.

A time to plant and a time to pluck. Lu. 8:11-16. The seed implies the doctrines of true religion and the various kinds of soil the various kinds of hearers. The ground of the highway side, which is apt to be beaten by men treading upon it, is an image of those who have their hearts so hardened with unpiety, that tho they hear the gospel preached, it makes no impression on the callous hearts, because they either hear it inattentively or quickly forget the words of the speaker. And surely no similitude could more strongly represent this insensibility and inattention than the beaten ground bordering on the highway into which this seed never entering is picked up by the fowls of the air or trodden in pieces by the feet of passers.

A time to get and a time to love. Mark 10:17-23. Luke 12:16-23. Having spoken this parable Christ proceeded to caution his disciples against anxious cares for the things of this world, from a consideration that God's providence extends to every part of the creation. The fowls of heaven are fed by his bounty and the lillies that adorn the valleys are supplied with rain from the clouds of heaven. If, therefore, Omnipotence so carefully provides for the inferior parts of the creation, the children of men have surely more reason to depend on his bounty for subsistence. God has destined them to everlasting happiness in a future life if their time is used for His cause. He will surely provide for them the necessities of the present. He does not want us to sit idle and not try to help ourselves, but to do what we can for ourselves and others and when we can't provide the necessities he will provide them.

A time to love and a time to hate. Matt. 5:44; 6:24. Don't hate your enemies but their characters and conduct, but love their souls and pray for them and seek their good. Looking at the word hate again we find we can't serve God and satan at the same time so why not use our time serving the One that is ever ready and willing to reward us for our faithfulness. How much good is done in this world by showing our love for one instead of hatred and souls cannot be brought to Christ by hating them. Therefore, love all whether they live in a palace or in the most humble cottage.

"What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboreth?" We should not be proud of our works of charity, but should do them because we love to work for Christ and are better by it ourselves. In the end we will receive the promised reward. For ex-

ample use the parable of the talents, given in Matt. 25:14. The object of this parable was to show that as all our blessings come from God we are accountable to him for our time and should so improve it as to meet his approbation. Do you think this was for vanity of human labor and a gain, or was it for the receiving of the glory or gifts God bestows? The principle here stated in this parable is perpetually illustrated in Christ's dealings with his servants in this world, but will have its highest fulfillment at the resurrection of the just, if we use our talents and time how God regards them. All our blessings come from God and to him we are justly accountable for the use of them. He does not give the same to all nor require the same time of all, but he requires only according to what a man has.

"He hath made everything beautiful in his time, also he hath set the world in their hearts so that no man can find out the works that God maketh from the beginning to the end." Luther remarked on this passage, "Man can't hit upon the works which God does, that is, no man can know beforehand the hour which is ordained above and however much he may plague himself he can never know when it will begin or end." As everything rests in God's hand to order and settle everything in the future life, under his control is life and death, and as long as we need our lives so long he spares us.

We should use some of our time enjoying the beauty he has so widely diffused. The heavens, earth, plants, birds, beasts, fishes, eye of affection and smile of friendship—all are beautiful, so suited, not merely for being but well being, and it is impossible for any but the fools to observe them and remain insensible to the perfections of the Maker of all. God is the author of everything good in men and they themselves the authors of the evil. If this is so, they should renounce all self dependence and give God the glory of whatever good they enjoy.

So when we think how to divide our time let us feel and act right under all circumstances and ask according to God's directions.

Nappanee, Ind.

Bob Burdette's Advice to Young Men

Mr. Burdette gives this advice to young men. We give it place in our columns in the hope that it may do good:

My son, when you hear a young man growling and scolding because Moody gets two hundred dollars a week for preaching Christianity, you will perceive that he never worried a minute because Ingersoll gets two hundred dollars a night for preaching atheism. You will observe that the man who is unutterably shocked because Francis Murphy is paid one hundred and fifty dollars a week for temperance work, seems to think it is all right when the barkeeper takes in twice as much money in a single day. The laborer is worthy of his hire, my boy, and he is just as worthy of it in the pulpit as he